



NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Assuring Decision Dominance in the AOC

“We’re putting air, space and information operators into all our key commands and training courses, focusing on expanding and cross-flowing knowledge to maximize effectiveness.”-America’s Air Force Vision 2020.

by Capt. Geoffrey Fischer
AF Command and Control Training and Innovation Group Public Affairs

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla.—The Air Force released its vision for the future and the Air Force Command and Control Training and Innovation Group’s C2 Warrior School is teaching its tenets.

The fourth C2 Warrior Advanced Course is teaching the need to understand each element of an Air Operations Center began Monday and will finish July 14.

“The C2WAC gives students an in-depth overview of the entire AOC process,” said Maj. Richard Bloser, C2WAC course director, “from strategy development to Air Tasking Order production, execution, and assessment.”

The purpose of the course is to prepare Air Force officers to perform duties requiring greater knowledge and skills to support the Joint Forces Air Component Commander decisions, said Bloser. Graduates will be qualified to assume supervisory positions within an AOC, such as a cell or division chief.

“I hope to gain a greater understanding of the AOC functions and processes to better integrate Air Mobility processes in the training we’re doing now and real world situations later,” said Maj. Dave Bentley, student and Chief of Air Mobility, 32nd Air Operations Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

The Advanced Course is part of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force’s Operational Warfighter Initiative, said Steve Hammond, course manager. The course is geared towards providing the kinds of people that will help the JFACC accomplish his missions and tasks and win the air campaign.

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Decision Dominance

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“We’re aiming at feeding the JFACC what he needs to make decisions at the operational level,” Hammond said. “We want our students to be aware of crisis action planning decisions, ATO cycle decisions, and how to come up with alternatives and recommendations so the commander can make good decisions.”

The course teaches the kinds of decisions that need to be made cross all the functions in an AOC. The course is designed to bring together everyone from A-2 (Intelligence) through A-6 (Communications), including space, mobility, and information operations personnel, Hammond said.

While the course is aimed at the Commander of Air Force Forces or JFACC staff at the Numbered Air Forces, Air Force members sitting on a Commander in Chief staff needs to know these kinds of things as well, said Hammond. Additionally people from Checkmate and the Doctrine Center would benefit as well.

While the course is only for the Air Force now, discussions are being help to include the other services in the future, Bloser said. “This is an Air Force class, but we want it to be joint. Every chance we get we try to focus on the joint aspects.”

In order to qualify for the class, students must have a Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmentalized Information clearance. They should be field grade officers, normally with a year of experience in an Air Operations Center.

In the future, the course is looking to expand from five weeks to six weeks, said Bloser. Additionally, plans are being made to identify the graduates from the course with a prefix for their Air Force Specialty Code.

“In the past, there was no way to identify that someone has experience in an AOC,” said Hammond. “When a crises broke the Air Force needed personnel from the communications, logistics, intel, rated, or air defender career fields with experience in an AOC. They had to go out and ask them if they had AOC experience.”

During Kosovo the air operations center took personnel from across U.S. Air Forces Europe and the stateside Numbered Air Forces, but there still weren’t enough, said Bloser. The C2WS received a call to find out who had graduated from the class to find enough qualified people to fill the required billets.

Awarding the prefix would make it easier to identify who has experience and more quickly deploy experienced personnel in the future, said Bloser. Currently the prefix is not in effect, but if it is approved, it would be retroactive to all students who have passed the course.

Air Force Vision 2020 says, “These leaders with experience and cross-competence in the increasingly complex range of military disciplines will lead aerospace and joint forces to victory for the nation.” The C2 Warrior School is making these leaders today.